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Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, December 17, 2012)

The Senate met at 10 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Acting President pro tempore, the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, whose days are without end and whose mercies cannot be numbered, keep us aware of life's brevity and uncertainty. As we bid aloha to the second longest serving Senator in U.S. history, DANIEL KEN INOUE, we praise You for the beauty of his well-lived life. Thank You, Lord, for the years we shared with him, the good we saw in him, and the friendship we received from him. We are grateful for the dignity of his quiet strength that blazed a trail of significant service sufficient for two lifetimes. May the memories of his bipartisan spirit challenge us to work more harmoniously with each other. Bless Irene, Kenny, and the rest of his loved ones. Surround them with Your love. Now give us strength to leave our beloved President pro tempore in Your care, for he is a sheep of Your own fold, a lamb of Your own flock, and a servant of Your own redeeming. Give him the blessed rest of everlasting peace.

We pray in the Redeemer's Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is tradition in this body to have flowers on the desk of the departed. We have flying in from Hawaii now a lei that will be more Hawaiian than these roses.

I ask unanimous consent that we now have a moment of silence in honor of our departed friend, DAN INOUE.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will observe a moment of silence.

(Moment of silence)

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business. The majority will control the first 30 minutes and the Republicans the second 30 minutes.

We are in a unique time in history. The Presiding Officer, Senator COONS from Delaware, is the President pro tempore until 11:30 today. As a result of his being given this charge yesterday morning, it spills over into today. Senator BIDEN is going to come today to swear in Senator LEAHY as the President pro tempore of the Senate.

All things in life are interesting. Senator BIDEN lost his wife when he was a brandnew Senator in a terrible automobile accident. She was killed and his two boys hurt badly and a child lost. He has taken this day off for 30-plus years to think about the tragedy in his life, but he indicated yesterday that he would be able to be here at 11:30. So everybody is sacrificing now, and we appreciate it. I know the Presiding Officer had lots to do this morning, and we thank him for being part of the program. We appreciate it very much.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we be in a period of morning business until 12:30 to allow for tributes to Senator INOUE and the victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following that recess, we will resume consideration of H.R. 1, the legislative vehicle for the supplemental appropriations bill.

I yield to my friend, the Republican leader, for a few minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I thank my friend, the majority leader.

Today is indeed a day to celebrate the life and extraordinary service to our country of our friend, Senator DAN INOUE. I will have more to say about that later, but what a remarkable individual he was. It has been our privilege to have the opportunity to get to know him and observe his great work for a very long time.

I thank my friend, the majority leader.

REMEMBERING DANIEL K. INOUE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I came to the floor yesterday minutes after Irene—Senator INOUE's wife—confirmed the death of her husband, my friend, a friend of all of us here.

I was, frankly, very emotional and announced to the Senate and the country the death of one of the Senate's all-time greats. So today, upon contemplation and reflection, I am going to say a little bit more about Senator INOUE.

His personal friendship I valued so very, very much. He was a colleague

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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